
USDA Forest Service

Monongahela National Forest
Pocahontas County, West Virginia

Legal Ad

Legal Notice- Opportunity to Comment

Upper Williams Environmental Analysis

The Monongahela National Forest is conducting a 30-day comment period on the Upper Williams Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with 36 CFR 215. The proposed action for the Upper Williams project area focuses on vegetation management to meet the purpose and need of creating a mosaic of tree stands that move the area towards meeting size class goals identified in the Forest Plan, insect and disease treatment, and providing forest products to the local community.

The proposed action (Alternative B) includes commercial timber harvesting on an estimated 2,255 acres intended to increase the level of younger age classes across the Upper Williams project area. This includes an estimated 1,429 acres of commercial thinning, 79 acres of thinning with patch cuts, 413 acres of two-aged regeneration harvesting, 252 acres of clearcutting, and 82 acres of overstory removal. This would be accomplished with an estimated 1,953 acres of helicopter yarding and 302 acres of ground-based skidding.

In addition to the proposed action, the EA is evaluating a “no action” alternative (Alternative A) and four action alternatives considered in detail.

The 16,454-acre project area is located in the Upper Williams watershed, about 10 miles west of Marlinton, West Virginia in Pocahontas County. The Highland Scenic Highway and the ridge tops of Red Lick Mountain, Tea Creek Mountain, and Black Mountain border the north and west boundaries of the project area. The ridge tops of Black Mountain, Swago Mountain, and Day Mountain and the Monongahela National Forest Proclamation Boundary form the south and east boundaries. Elevations range from about 3,000' on Williams River near the confluence with Sugar Creek to 4,703' on Red Spruce Knob. The Handley Public Hunting and Fishing Area, managed by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, is located within this watershed.

This comment period ends 30 days following the date of publication of legal notice in the official newspaper of record, the *Pocahontas Times*. Only those who submit timely and substantive comments will be accepted as appellants. To be eligible for appeal, each individual or representative from each organization submitting substantive comments must either sign the comments or verify their identity upon request.

Please send comments to the responsible official, Rondi Fischer, District Ranger, Marlinton-White Sulphur Ranger District, Monongahela National Forest, at P.O. Box 210, Marlinton, West Virginia, 24954. Send electronic comments to r9_monongahela_nepa@fs.fed.us, faxed comments to (304) 799-6820, or provide comments by phone to Bill Shields, NEPA Coordinator, at (304) 636-1800 ext. 287. Hand deliver comments between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, at the Ranger District Office in Marlinton, West Virginia. The acceptable formats for electronic comments include Microsoft Word documents (.doc) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf).

For additional information, please contact Bill Shields, NEPA Coordinator, at (304) 636-1800 ext 287, at r9_monongahela_nepa@fs.fed.us, or Rondi Fischer at the Ranger District office address listed above.
